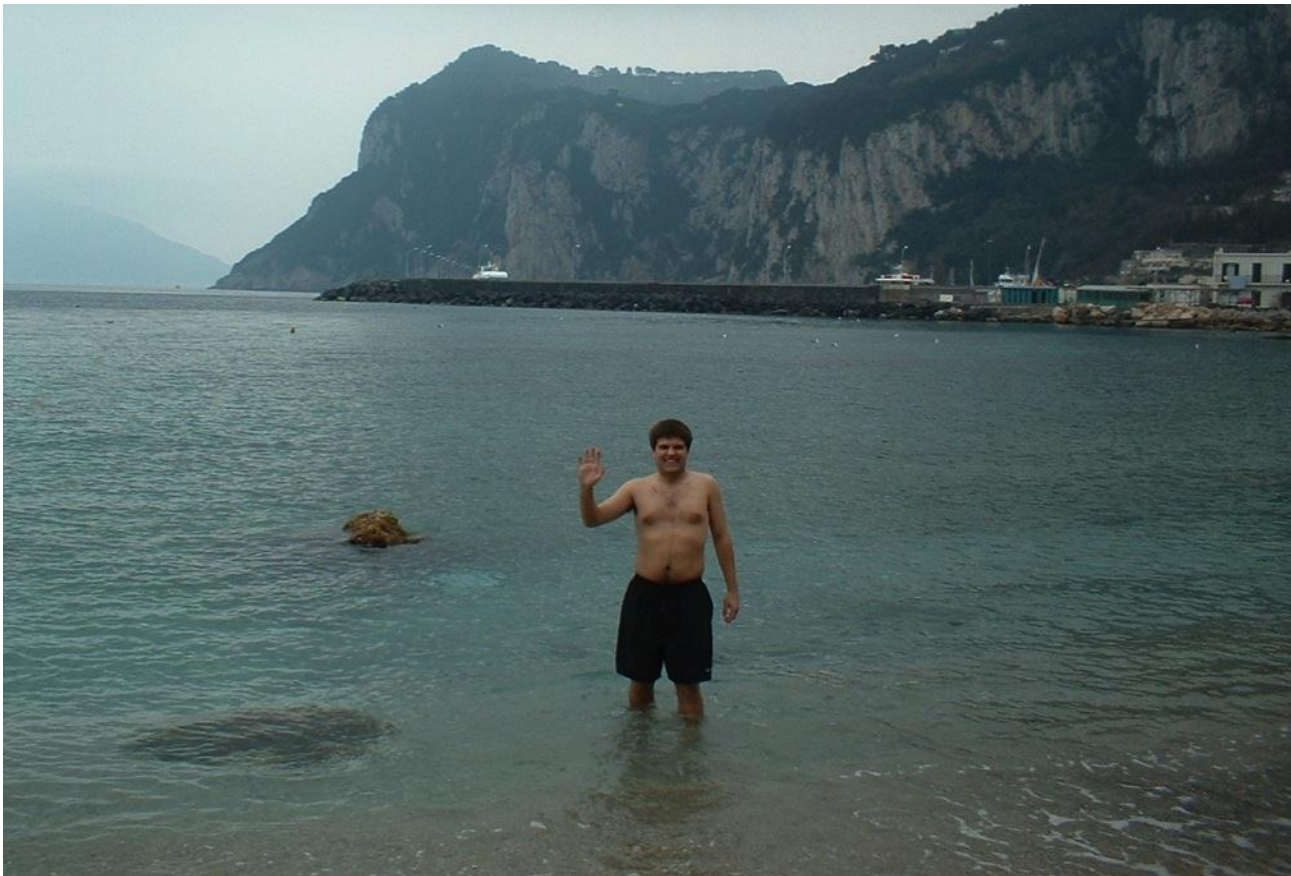


Andy Marso

Surviving meningitis

One year before meningitis

- 2003: Study abroad in Italy



One month before meningitis

- 2004: Senior year spring break in MN



April 27, 2004

Symptoms begin:

- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Aches
- Inability to concentrate

April 28, 2004

Symptoms progress:

- Foot/leg pain (pins and needles)
- Purplish rash on arms
- Cold arms and legs

April 28, 2004

Hospitalization:

- CT scan
- Spinal tap
- Breathing becomes labored
- Taken by helicopter to KC
- Loss of consciousness
- Septic shock/DIC (50% fatality rate)

Averting death

- Antibiotics delivered
- Xigris delivered for sepsis
- Ventilator
- Kidneys endure
- Recovery from pneumonia

Tissue damage begins

- **WARNING:** following pictures are graphic, including exposed bone and tendon.

May 13, 2004

- Still on vent, circulation compromised



Damage= 3rd degree burns on 30% of body



Slicing away dead tissue



Determining what must be amputated



Determining what must be amputated



Aug. 26, 2004: Leaving burn unit



One year of rehabilitation

Physical therapy

- Regaining flexibility (scar tissue)
- Too weak to roll over unassisted
- Using a wheelchair

Occupational therapy:

- Dress, eat, wash, use the bathroom
- Write, type, drive

Adjusting to new life



National Meningitis Association



Finding my toughness

- Doctors said I might never walk



Travel



Worth the Pain



Born at the beginning of the millennial or “me-first” generation, Andy Marso grew up believing he was smart, talented and entitled to his dreams.

He coasted through school with minimal effort, but weeks before he entered the real world, Marso was struck down by a bacterial infection that changed everything.

In this first-person narrative, Marso, a professional journalist who has written for the *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*, details a transformative four-month hospitalization in which he fights for his life and then his limbs.

By the time he leaves the hospital, Marso will have decided: Continue to grasp firmly at life’s edge, comforted by the known, or embrace a new life more challenging than he ever imagined.

Worth the Pain



What meningitis, skin grafts
and amputations taught me
about faith, family and fortitude

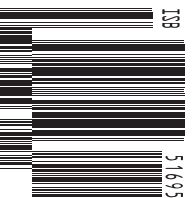
ANDY MARSO

Marso
WATSON

ISBN 978-1-63369-332-2

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Practical messages:

- College students 6X more likely to contract
- Get vaccinated (Menveo or Menactra)
- Bexsero (lobby for FDA action)
- Practice good hygiene (Be aware, don't share)
- Know the symptoms (rash, stiff neck, headache, pins and needles pain)

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NEWS

A new vaccine vanquishes meningitis A in Africa

Kai Kupferschmidt

The first vaccine developed specifically for Africa is an unqualified success.

For more than a century, the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacterium has swept across large swaths of Africa every few years. Striking during the dry season, it causes meningitis that kills 5% to 10% of those infected and leaves many others deaf or disabled. Although effective—and expensive—vaccines exist against the meningitis strains that plague Europe and the United States, no good one was available to protect Africans against serotype A, the most common strain in Africa. That has changed—and the result, says Brian Greenwood, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, is “probably the most dramatic success I have ever seen.”

In 2000, the World Health Organization convened global health experts who came up with an idea: Make a safe and effective vaccine specifically for Africa for an African price. And make it fast. With \$70 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Meningitis Vaccine Project, a public-private partnership headed by infectious disease specialist Marc LaForce, got started. The basics were agreed upon quickly: To induce

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Barbara Jasny *et al.*

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Education

Georgetown University student dies of apparent case of meningitis



By **Nick Anderson** September 16 [Follow @wpnick](#)

A Georgetown University student died Tuesday after apparently contracting meningitis, the university said.

Andres Jaime was a sophomore in the school of nursing and health studies,

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